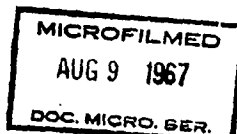


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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2006



MEKA- 20271

Chief, Pullach Operations Base

1 July 1950

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

General Andras (Andre, Andreas, Adras) ZAKO

REFERENCE: MGLA-930; MGLA-161; MGLA-374

1. Our files contain approximately the same biographical data on Subject as that set forth in MGLA-161, dated 2 August 1949 and MGLA-374, dated 7 September 1949.

2. Intelligence Division SUSCOM reports no record on ZAKO and CIC has forwarded the following traces:

(a) General Andreas or Andras ZAKO in 1944, under the direction of the Hungarian General Staff, formed the organization "KOPJAS". Intelligence and sabotage were designated as the primary missions of the unit, with possible activation as a partisan group in the event of Hungary's capitulation. This organization, except to a small degree, was never actually functional prior to the war's end.

(b) In 1946, Subject is reported to have returned to Hungary from his exile in Austria, and to have reorganized the KOPJAS as a positive intelligence group. He returned to Austria in 1947 and conducted a recruiting campaign for this organization from among the ranks of former Hungarian army and gendarmerie personnel in Germany and Austria.

(c) During 1947 and 1948, ZAKO travelled extensively throughout Europe, establishing connections with other Hungarian exile groups and seeking support from Western power intelligence organizations for the KOPJAS.

(d) Subject had initially established connections with the Hungarian Liberty Movement led by ex-General Ferenc FARKAS in late 1947. The purpose of this move, in ZAKO's opinion, was to provide a political arm for the normally militaristic KOPJAS. FARKAS had led ZAKO to believe that the HLM was strongly supported by the U.S. State Department, and that he (FARKAS) was to lead a Hungarian Government in exile. In early 1949, however, Subject severed connections with FARKAS almost completely due to heavy penetration of the HLM by pro-Soviet sympathizers. (B-2).

There was
Distribution:

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(e) After his break with PARKAS, ZAKO is reported to have established connections between the KOPJAS and the Hungarian National Committee led by VARGA, NAGY, ECKHARDT and other Hungarian ex-diplomats in the U.S. This alleged affiliation, however, has never been verified. (B-2).

(f) In the Spring of 1949, ZAKO established the ^HMHEK (Fraternity of Hungarian Warriors) which appears to be merely a legitimate front for KOPJAS activity. Membership in the MHEK continues to be restricted to those former army and gendarmerie personnel who have not participated in political activity since the end of the war. This move of ZAKO is evidently aimed at preventing PARKAS followers from entering the MHEK. (B-2).

(g) Subject moved from his former residence in Kellertburg, Austria (British Zone) to Absam by Solbad Hall, Tirol, Austria (French Zone) during the early part of 1949. Reason for this move has not been given by ZAKO, although it is significant that his present freedom of movement and organizational funds appear to be directly attributed to French Intelligence (B-2).

(h) Since ZAKO's move to the French Zone of Austria, numerous reports have been received which indicate that French intelligence has been financing his activities. Should this be true, it implies that the French are receiving similar data to that which is being provided U.S. intelligence by other KOPJAS members. (B-3).

(i) The KOPJAS is presently maintaining a positive intelligence net within Hungary. Data forthcoming from this net is relayed via an intricate courier system to both ZAKO and to the various liaison officers appointed by U.S. intelligence agencies to the KOPJAS Groups. Subject in all probability is also supplying this data to French Intelligence authorities at a clear profit.

(j) The Hungarian language newspaper "SZABAD KEMZET" published in the Munich area, although ostensibly an organ of the MHEK, is actually under the direction of ZAKO and his staff. (B-2).

(k) The above information was extracted from a CIC report dated 13 October 1949, evaluation as indicated.

(l) Subject is described as follows: Height, approx 5'5"; Weight, 160 lbs; Hair, graying; Eyes, blue; Build, medium; born 23 March 1898, Brasso, Hungary; Roman Catholic.

3. In June 1948 ZAKO offered his intelligence net to our Munich Base, but was not accepted due to insufficient information on activities, communications, contacts, and probable British and French intelligence connections of the group.

4. MAV-698, dated 23 October 1948, reports the following from a Hungarian refugee source:

- (a) On 8 Sept 42, Andras ZAKO, who is now living in Absam near Bad Hall, Tirol, sought out source and indicated interest in acquiring a blank Hungarian passport which he would take or send to London, where it would be filled out properly.
- (b) ZAKO stated to source that he intends to meet BAKACH-BESSENNYEI, former Hungarian diplomat, in Paris and will request the latter's help in obtaining access to high American authorities. ZAKO complained that the French have no funds to finance his organization. He stated that his group is an active one and he is able to smuggle anyone out of Hungary; also, that through his organization, he could take care of requests within Hungary.
- (c) Source, in order to sound out ZAKO's position with regard to Ferencz KISBARNAKI-PARKAS, expressed regret that Ferencz NAGY did not meet KISBARNAKI-PARKAS during NAGY's recent visit to Austria; source added that, in his opinion, divergent political views should not have been a barrier between the two men to prevent their meeting. ZAKO agreed with source completely, declaring that 'after all, KISBARNAKI-PARKAS is an outstanding personality'.

A "Field Comment" on the above report states that "Source stated that ZAKO's attitude toward KISBARNAKI-PARKAS was thought to be unfavorable, because of the latter's political maneuvers. Same source reported that NAGY did not believe ZAKO to be connected with KISBARNAKI-PARKAS, whom NAGY regards as a political opponent."

5. Further information, also from a Vienna report on Hungarian Emigre Groups in Western Europe (MAV-1613) of February 1950 states that General ZAKO organized the Brotherhood of Comrades-in-Arms, an association of former Hungarian Army officers which has headquarters in Innsbruck, Austria, and Munich, Germany; some members are in Paris and in the French provinces. This association's politics are right of center. Subject was an instructor at the Ludovica Academy in Budapest. Subject was assigned the task of organizing the above association by KISBARNAKI-PARKAS and he (ZAKO) has allegedly promised KISBARNAKI-PARKAS that the Brotherhood will be at the disposal of the Hungarian Committee of Liberation in the event it is needed.

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CS Classification: NONE
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